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NEWS RELEASE

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LOAN OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE FOR FARMERS AND RANCHERS THROUGH THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

(Phoenix) Yuma County farmers and ranchers continue to rank in the top three produce suppliers in the U.S. despite battling 20 years of drought. This month new low-interest loans are available to help them stay at the top.

Farmers and ranchers in Yuma County, and nearby counties of LaPaz, Maricopa and Pima, are eligible for low interest loans provided by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency for areas declared natural disasters due to drought conditions.

“Our farmers are a tremendous asset to our economy. These low-interest loans provide help for agriculture businesses in drought conditions,” said Mark Killian, director of the Department of Agriculture.

In Yuma County, 1 in 4 jobs are tied to agriculture. Producers grow 40 types of fruits and vegetables, including enough lettuce for every person in the United

States to have a head of lettuce. Overall, agriculture contributes \$17.2 billion to Arizona’s economy yearly.

Qualified farmers and ranchers in these four counties can apply for low interest emergency loans from USDA’s Farm Service Agency. They have to apply within 8 months and meet eligibility requirements.

The Farm Service Agency considers each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. USDA offers other [programs](#) besides these low-interest loans to help eligible agriculture business recover from difficulty.

Farmers and ranchers may contact the [Arizona Farm Service Agency](#) for information on eligibility requirements and application procedures for these and other programs.

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